



**Indiana State Organization of the
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Epsilon Chapter News, May
Putnam County, IN Issue # 7
Editor, Rita Fish**

“The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.”

From your President, Marcia Murtagh



Greetings DKG Sisters,

I'd like to begin by thanking each and every member of Epsilon. Everyone has been so kind helping me get through my first biennium as your president. We've had our struggles with trying to organize meetings through the pandemic years through zoom or in person but we all persevered. Oscar Wilde expressed it best, "Experience is the hardest kind of teacher. It gives you the test first and the lesson afterward." I am looking forward to utilizing my experience from the past biennium for the new 2022-2024 biennium.

We had a wonderful Founder's Day Brunch and celebration on Saturday, May 7th at the Inn at DePauw. Thank you to Janis and her committee for doing such an amazing job organizing this event. I'd also like to thank Ellen and Rita for the Founder's Day Hats Off celebration. We had fun selecting hats that corresponded with each founding member's attributes. It amazes me the dedication, forethought, and drive these 12 women had for education. Sometimes it's good to reflect on their dream of creating an organization that promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. It was with great satisfaction to award Chelsey Edwards, our Grant-in-Aid scholarship following our brunch. She introduced herself and gave a brief summary of her plans for her education at University of Evansville. It's always a pleasure to award money to an enthusiastic woman who values education.

The new officers present at our Founder's Day Brunch were installed for our new biennium 2022-24. Thank you for volunteering to serve as officers. I am looking forward to our two years together. We will begin our new biennium by attending CCOT, an in-person session on June 8th at the MCL on 86th street for Presidents and Treasures. The remaining sessions will be held virtually. I will also be meeting with the new officers to plan programs and committees for next year on Wednesday, July 6th at my home.

The 2022 State Conference in Danville is behind us (Organized by Council 7). It was a fantastic day!! The ceremony of Remembrance was very touching. There were awards given, business conducted and workshops attended. It was a day that DKG friends old and new were able to spend the day together. The next conference will be held in Evansville April 28, 2023. Other dates to remember:

July 12-16 2022 International Convention being held in New Orleans July 12-16.
November 5 Janet O'Neal Leadership Seminar in Columbia City

My wish for all of you is to have a fabulous summer filled with warmth, sunshine and happiness. It's that time for teachers to get re-energized. Enjoy your summer.

I hope to see all of you at our next meeting, Thursday, September 1, 2022 at the Putnam County Museum at 4:30. Jo Jones will provide our program.

Have a safe and healthy Summer!!
Marcia



Epsilon Chapter President, Marcia Murtagh presents the Grant-In-Aid check to future educator, Chelsey Edwards. Photo thanks to Lucy Wieland.



*Epsilon Chapter celebrated with “Hats Off to Our Founders”.
Thanks to Marti Daily for the photo.*

IMPORTANT DATES

- * **CCOT for Presidents & Treasurers-MCL West 86th , Indianapolis, June 8, 2022-10:00 am**
- * **DKG International Convention, July 12-16, 2022, New Orleans, LA**

Epsilon Dates

Thursday, September 1, 2022

4:30 pm Putnam County Museum

Program: Jo Jones, "DKG"

Business Meeting: Program Books and Membership

Hostesses: Kathryn Dory and Leah Henry

The Reading Improvement Center has been serving our community with low-cost, individual reading assistance since 1987. It was easy to gather a board of teachers and parents, find space at St. Andrew's Church and start our not for profit effort. Parents, teachers and civic groups contributed to our effort. Delta Kappa Gamma members are our longest supporters!

Our story really divides into decades. Three teachers tutored students who came weekly for an hour of tutoring. Parents paid fees on a sliding scale. We kept busy! When Lucy Wieland joined us she shared her dream of an outreach program that could serve more needy students. IN 1991 Lucy started an outreach program at the Castlebury Apartments. Students came twice a week after school for homework help. DePauw students volunteered to help and our numbers grew. We needed more space needed and and moved the program to St. Andrew's. DePauw volunteers, work study students and our staff of one teacher and an assistant managed up to twenty elementary students four days a week for twenty years. "After School Enrichment" was a community mainstay. When a fire damaged St. Andrew's just as our program was about to start another year, Gobin Church offered hospitality, more space and a playground!

The center still offered private tutoring for students with learning disabilities at St. Andrew's, and two or three or three of us met students there. That work can be tedious for many children who need to learn phonics, the mainstay of that teaching. I made a set of "rime" cards with color-coded vowels and endings. Students needed to learn each rime to make words they could put on a color wheel. It made phonics practice into a game.

In 2001 I filled in as Director of the Gobin program, and the tutors took over the game for me. They were were my mentors who shared ideas, solved problems and figured out new ways to work the cards. I shared "Sound Effects" at workshops and conferences and worked with a large teaching project in Mississippi from 2005-8. We also started some tutoring in Cloverdale from 2008-11. In 2010 a DePauw graduate, and tutor, Caroline Mark, did her doctoral dissertation on "Sound Effects." She did the project in Putnam County schools with Center staff and assistance.

By 2011 It was time was to rethink our work and my project. School was different, tutors were less available and parents wanted homework help. We were moving away from our reading mission. While students needed help, school didn't have the time. Lucy and I managed a small program for 1st and

2nd grade students for several years. It was hard work for tired children who wanted to play games! By 2018 we were worn out!

The Gobin program ended, but we had a small in-school program for first graders at Bainbridge. I wanted to try out some different ideas for early learning. It took a while, but I was finally beginning to understand the challenges. I began to see that school was moving way too fast for many learners, but they really wanted to learn! I taught rimes as sight words, blending the color and a letter into a familiar sound. I started doing that in early 2020, and was having a bit of success with some difficult students.

I used a simple 1-2-3 step process to make a rime, then a rhyming word.

Here's how it works:

1. Say the vowel sound (both color reminder word)
2. Say the ending letter sound
3. Blend the two sounds, repeat it

Add a beginning letter that makes a rhyming word they know!

Each "rime" makes a group of words a learner can say, read, and spell with with a single rhyme. It's practice that gets results!

I made up a small reward system with scores of 1 2 or 3 points.

. This summer I will start working with students at K-1 level to continue my informal research, and hopefully share " Sound Effects" with teachers.

Ellen Dittmer,
Reading Improvement Center

Minutes of the Delta Kappa Gamma Epsilon Chapter Meeting
DKG Founder's Day
May 7, 2022

President Marcia Murtaugh opened the Founder's Day brunch at the Inn at DePauw at 9:30. She introduced our guests and thanked the Hostess Committee: Janis Price, Mariette Bargaen, and Harriett Dobson. She also thanked Eleanor Hauser for taking reservations and Rita Fish for the table centerpieces. After grace, everyone enjoyed brunch.

Marcia then introduced our Grant-in-Aid recipient, Chelsea Edwards. She spoke about herself for a minute or two, and was very grateful for the aid.

Ellen Dittmer then led us in a ceremony to honor the founders of DKG entitled "Hats Off to Our Founders." Everyone took a slip of paper that described one of the founders and choose a hat that would go with the description. We then joined in the Pledge to the Founders.

Installation of Officers present then took place. The officers that were installed were:

President – Marcia Murtagh

1st Vice President – Rita Fish

Recording Secretary – Kathryn Dory

Corresponding Secretary – Betty McGill

Co-Treasurers – Eleanor Hauser and Chelsey Meluch

The remaining officers will be installed at the September meeting.

The minutes of the April meeting were sent out by email.

Eleanor reminded everyone that dues are due. The budget was presented. Mariette moved to approve the budget, Janis seconded, and the motion carried.

Betty read a note from Susan Stewart.

Marcia and other members reported on the State Conference. About 110 people attended on April 30th. It was very good, and several good ideas were shared.

Lucy stated that our bylaws needed one bit of tweaking. We no longer need to list the International or State dues in our bylaws. By consensus, it was agreed to take that language out of the bylaws.

Marcia reminded the incoming officers that there will be officer training at CCOT. There is a \$10.00 fee per person. Most training will be handled virtually. Everyone was encouraged to register after the meeting.

Officers will meet in July after the 4th at Marcia's home to plan for the upcoming year. Marcia will get details to everyone soon.

International Convention is in New Orleans, July 12-16, 2022

A chapter chat was held April 7th. Marcia attended and said that we seem to be doing as well as other chapters that were represented.

There will be a Hot Topic presented on May 12th by Zoom. The topic will be "Empathy Fatigue" and it will be presented by Karen Branch. RSVP to IndianaDKG@gmail.com and a link will be sent to join the presentation. PGP points will be available for this presentation.

The State Project Ad Hoc Committee is compiling and sharing programs other chapters have/or are presenting at chapter meetings.

The Janet O'Neal leadership Seminar is November 5, 2022 in Columbia City. Dr. Lori DeSauters will be the guest speaker with breakout sessions and lunch for a fee of \$25.00. RSVP by October 1, 2022.

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 4:30 pm at the Putnam County Museum. It was announced that all of our meetings will take place there. Jo Jones will be presenting a program "DKG."

It was announced that anyone with a colorful sticker on the bottom of their chair could take one of the centerpieces home.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 with the singing of the DKG song.

Update your membership profile! Go to dkgindiana.org to find the link to click on that takes you to a YouTube video that will show you every step in the process.

Please share stories of your travels with our members. One of my favorite quotes is from Mark Twain.

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.

Please send news for the next newsletter. We appreciate hearing from our members.

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